

Whereas, the State of Florida has the authority to reserve water for the natural system pursuant to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes;

The signatories to this agreement hereby affirm that:

As required by the Water Resources Development Act of 2000, water made available by each project in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan will not be permitted for a consumptive use or otherwise made unavailable by the State of Florida until such time as sufficient reservations of water for the restoration of the natural system are made by regulation or other appropriate means pursuant to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, and in accordance with the project implementation report for the project and consistent with the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

To effectuate this agreement, the Federal party agrees:

- To include within the President's budget submissions to the Congress requests for Federal appropriations in the amount the President deems necessary to implement the Federal share of the Plan's implementation;
- To initiate authorized project planning and design;
- To work with the State of Florida on developing information jointly to support the adaptive assessment component of the Plan;
- To use the planning process to supply information for both Federal and State legislative oversight requirements;

To effectuate this agreement, the State party agrees:

- To include within the Governor's budget submissions to the Legislature requests for State appropriations in the amount the Governor deems necessary to implement the State share of the Plan's implementation.
- To undertake reservations of water for the natural system upon completion of each PIR, and to ensure that reservations of water for the natural system will be consistent with information developed in the PIR, indicating appropriate timing, distribution, and flow requirements sufficient for the restoration of the natural system.
- To manage its water resource allocation process to ensure that water made available by each project in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan will not be permitted for a consumptive use or otherwise made unavailable for restoration of the natural system, consistent with the PIR and the provisions of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000.
- To monitor and assess the continuing effectiveness of reservations as long as the project is authorized to achieve the goals and objectives of the Plan.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary released the text of the agreement as signed by the President and the Governor of Florida. An original was not available for verification of the content of this agreement.

Remarks at a Fundraiser for Governor Jeb Bush of Florida January 9, 2002

Thank you all very much. First, it's good to be at the old family reunion. [Laughter] I want to thank Marv and Doro for hosting this reception for our brother, my big little

brother. [Laughter] I want to thank the chairman and the vice chairman of the Republican Party for being here. I want to thank the chairman of the Florida Party.

I want to thank Al Cardenas, and I want to thank you all for coming.

These are serious times that face our Nation. And these serious times require serious leaders, and you're here to support a really good, serious man.

I was reminded about how serious the times are today when we lost a KC-135 refueler in Afghanistan. Our hearts and prayers go out to the families of the soldiers. But I want to remind them that the cause that we are now engaged in is just and noble. The cause is freedom, and this Nation will not rest until we've achieved our objective.

I have explained to the American people that we must be patient—and I'm proud to report the Americans are patient—that we're entering into a dangerous phase in our war against terror, that we've achieved a lot of objectives, thanks to a fabulous military, that we have routed out the government that was the host to the parasitical Al Qaida. And in so doing, this great Nation liberated women and children from one of the most repressive, evil regimes history has ever known.

My favorite scenes of this conflict have been the joy on the faces of Afghan women as our soldiers and our allies have swept into these villages where women were so incredibly repressed. It's hard for our country to imagine the brutality and the backwardness of the Taliban. They are no longer in power, thanks to the great United States of America.

Those who struck America think they can run and hide. It's interesting—I find it amazing that the Al Qaida leaders are more than willing to convince some of their brethren to commit suicide; yet they, themselves, hide in caves. [Laughter] And that's why this phase of the war is dangerous, because we're going to hunt them down. They think they can hide, but this patient Nation will do whatever it takes to bring them to justice. And when we do, the world will be better for it.

We have got a job to do here at home, and I appreciate working with Governor Bush on protecting our homeland. We've got a job to make sure that we take every threat seriously. And make no mistake about it, the enemy still wants to harm America. But what they don't realize is that this Nation is alert, and we're ready. And anytime we find any hint of anybody who will try to harm the innocents of our country, we will give them the chance to share information with us. [Laughter] We will bring them to justice as well.

But the best homeland defense, of course, is to be successful overseas. We're in the first theater. But wherever terror exists, this great Nation will hunt it down. It's the calling of our time.

I appreciate so very much the spirit of unity here in Washington, DC, on this war. [Laughter] But we showed what's possible in Washington, what can happen in Washington, the last couple of days. I had the honor of traveling our country with George Miller of California, John Boehner of Ohio, Judd Gregg of New Hampshire, and Senator Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts. I signed an education bill that is a really good piece of legislation. It's a good piece of legislation because it enables and empowers Governors like Jeb Bush of Florida to continue to strive for excellence for every child. And it's a good piece of legislation because it shows what's possible in Washington, DC. Political parties are important, but they're not nearly as important as doing the Nation's business. And making sure every child is educated is a heck of a lot more important than the political parties that make up our political system.

I've worked hard to change the tone in Washington, to focus on big matters, and to bring people together to achieve those matters. I hope that one of the legacies of my administration will be that results matter more than rhetoric and that, as we achieve results, it's important to share credit with people.

I jested with Ted Kennedy when I told him that the folks at the coffee shop in Crawford, Texas, will be amazed when they see me standing up there saying nice things about him. [Laughter] But I meant them. I meant them, because this bill never would have happened had he not made up his mind to help it happen.

And that's exactly the spirit that Jeb has taken to the governorship of Florida. You see, he, too, is a proud Republican, like me, but he also understands, children of Florida are more important than political parties. And he said he stole ideas from me; he didn't steal ideas from me. He had the idea of every child being educated ingrained deeply in his heart.

He is—today I signed an Everglades agreement with the State of Florida. It's legislation that passed prior to my time. My job then was to certify that the Floridians were honoring their obligation to make sure there was enough water to the Everglades park. That was easy to sign because I know that deeply ingrained in Jeb's heart is a desire to protect the natural beauty of the State of Florida. He can also—he's a deeply compassionate man, but he's plenty tough. Just ask the crooks of Florida. [Laughter]

I want to thank you all for making his campaign more viable. But what's going to make it really viable is that he is a man who's done in office what he said he would do. He speaks straight with the Florida voters; he tells them what he believes. He's not one of these kind of fellows that walks around with his finger in the sea breeze trying to figure out which way the political

winds blow. He says what's on his mind, not based upon polls or focus groups, but based upon conviction. And there's no doubt in my mind that he is not only one of the great Governors of Florida's history; he's one of the great Governors of our Nation. And he deserves a second term.

We not only share a last name, but we share the fact we both married above ourselves. [Laughter] It's great to be here with Columba as well. Both Jeb and Columba understand there's a calling when you hold a high office, that there's an awesome responsibility that comes with that office. And that's, first and foremost, to bring honor and dignity to the office. And that's exactly what this couple has done.

They may not agree with Jeb in Florida on every issue, but when they look at that office, when they look at the office of Governor of Florida, they know they've got a man there who will tell them the truth, a man who's there for the right reason, and a man who brings honor to the great State of Florida.

Thank you all for coming. May God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:19 p.m. in a ballroom at the Capitol Hilton. In his remarks, he referred to reception hosts Marvin Bush and Dorothy Koch, the President's brother and sister; Gov. James S. Gilmore III of Virginia, chairman, and Ann Wagner, cochairman, Republican National Committee; David Johnson, executive director, and Al Cardenas, State chairman, Republican Party of Florida; and Columba Bush, wife of Gov. Jeb Bush.

Remarks Following a Meeting With the Economic Team and an Exchange With Reporters
January 10, 2002

Pension Reform

The President. Thank you all for coming. I met with my economic security team last week to talk about ways to create jobs. We're meeting again with the components of the team to talk about one part of economic security, and that's pension security.

One of the things we're deeply concerned about is that there have been a wave of bankruptcies that have caused many workers to lose their pensions, and that's deeply troubling to me. And so I've asked the Secretary of Treasury, Secretary of Labor, and Secretary of Commerce to convene a working group to analyze pensions, rules and regulations, to look into the effects of the current law on hard-working Americans, and to come up with recommendations how to reform the system to make sure that people are not exposed to losing their life savings as a result of a bankruptcy, for example.

As well, Secretary of Treasury, along with the SEC, the Fed, and the CFTC, are going to convene a working group to analyze corporate disclosure rules and regulations. In light of the most recent bankruptcy, Enron, there needs to be a full review of disclosure rules to make sure that the American stockholder or any stockholder is protected.

And so, I think this is an important part of, obviously, other investigations that are ongoing. The Justice Department announced and informed us late yesterday that they're in the process of investigating aspects of the Enron bankruptcy. The administration is deeply concerned about its effects on the economy. We're also deeply concerned about its effects on the lives of our citizenry.

I'll be glad to answer a few questions.

Enron Corporation

Q. When was the last time you talked to either Mr. Lay or any other Enron official about the—about anything? And did discussions involve the financial problems of the company?

The President. I have never discussed with Mr. Lay the financial problems of the company. The last time that I saw Mr. Lay was at my mother's fundraising event to—for literacy, in Houston. That would have been last spring. I do know that Mr. Lay came to the White House in—early in my administration along with, I think, 20 other business leaders to discuss the state of the economy. It was just kind of a general discussion. I have not met with him personally.

Q. [*Inaudible*]*—to inoculate and your administration politically from the fallout?*

The President. Well, first of all, Ken Lay is a supporter. And I got to know Ken Lay when he was the head of the—what they call the Governor's Business Council in Texas. He was a supporter of Ann Richards in my run in 1994. And she had named him the head of the Governor's Business Council, and I decided to leave him in place, just for the sake of continuity. And that's when I first got to know Ken and worked with Ken, and he supported my candidacy.

This is—what anybody's going to find, if—is that this administration will fully investigate issues such as the Enron bankruptcy to make sure we can learn from the past and make sure that workers are protected.

Iran and Afghanistan

Q. Mr. President, does it appear that Iran is flexing its muscles in western Afghanistan, and does that threaten the U.S. war on terrorism in that region?